

The **Clackamas** County Board of Commissioners has approved an \$18.6 million plan for major improvements to the Southeast Sunnyside Road interchange on Interstate 205 near **Clackamas Town Center**.

The project is supposed to greatly reduce traffic pressure on the Sunnyside interchange, which is considered one of the state's busiest. The entire project could take until 2015.

Financing for the work is uncertain because of the Ballot Measure 5 property tax limitation initiative. The project will require \$12.6 million from the state and federal governments.

The commissioners approved a study report that recommended upgrading the Sunnyside Road interchange into a so-called split-diamond interchange. There would be a freeway overpass for Southeast Sunnybrook Drive just south of the interchange, along the southern edge of **Clackamas Promenade**.

That would be the first phase of the project.

In the second phase, Sunnybrook would be connected with Sunnyside Road near Southeast 108th Avenue. Sunnybrook would be extended behind Kaiser Sunnyside Medical **Center** and then north to make the connection.

The commissioners amended the study report to keep Southeast 97th Avenue a two-way street for as long as possible. That probably would be until the end of the first phase of the road work, which will require three to five years, once it has begun.

The street will become a one-way street at some point during the massive project. Representatives of Unocal 76 told the commissioners on Dec. 13 that a one-way thoroughfare would hurt business at the Unocal service station at 12405 S.E. 97th Ave.

The Sunnybrook Drive extension could have been connected to Sunnyside Road via Valley View Terrace at a cost of more than \$21.8 million. But the commissioners followed the report's recommendation in favor of a connection near 108th Avenue.

During hearings on the report, some state highway officials and some area residents worried that the ambitious project would disrupt residential areas and not solve the traffic problem.

The project also was criticized by a representative of The Hahn Corp., which owns **Clackamas Town Center**. The Hahn Corp. thinks the project is a good one as far as it goes -- but that it does not go far enough in relieving traffic congestion.

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VINCE KOHLER - of the Oregonian Staff, 'COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVE SUNNYSIDE INTERCHANGE PLAN ', *Oregonian, The* (online), 27 Dec 1990 06 <<https://infoweb-newsbank-com.ezproxy.lincc.org/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/0EB086476F9C1EA5>>